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courage is contagious

Viewing cable 06AMMAN5745, TFLE01 - REACTIONS TO QANA TRAGEDY

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#06AMMAN5745**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
06AMMAN5745	2006-07-31 11:22	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Amman

Appears in these articles:

[not](#)
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VZCZCXYZ0000
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHAM #5745 2121122
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 311122Z JUL 06
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2752
INFO RUEHXX/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 005745

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/31/2016
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ASEC](#) [IS](#) [LE](#) [JO](#)
SUBJECT: TFLE01 - REACTIONS TO QANA TRAGEDY

Classified By: Ambassador David Hale for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

King Decries Qana "Massacre"

11. (C) Contacts and press express anger over the Qana attack,

but are still digesting the Secretary's success in gaining a 48-hour suspension of airstrikes and prospects for comprehensive action in the Security Council. In most respects, it is business as usual in Amman but we are monitoring security closely. End Summary.

¶2. (SBU) King Abdullah described the Qana attack publicly as an "ugly crime" and a "massacre," clearly feeling he needed to get in step with public opinion, which is outraged across the spectrum, from elites to the man in the street, and from liberals to Islamists. Until the announcements that Israeli air strikes would be suspended, Jordanians were blaming the U.S. for the continued violence, focusing in particular on media reports of accelerated arms shipments to Israel and of alleged U.S. efforts to block an unconditional ceasefire. Newspaper headlines describe the second Israeli massacre in Qana and front pages feature full-page color photos of dead infants. It will take time to see what impact the USG's latest diplomatic efforts will have on public opinion.

Evaporation of Support for Engagement with Israel

¶3. (C) A wide range of contacts who normally support engagement with Israel tell us that they and others like them can no longer sustain such a position with friends and relations; in some cases they claim to have personally turned against the concept of engagement. Some of this emotion will dissipate if the regional situation returns soon to something like normal. Several leading op-ed columnists call into questions Jordan's relationship with Israel, and call for the closure of Israel's Embassy in Amman.

Demonstration Planned

¶4. (SBU) According to media, the authorities have granted a permit for a protest march the afternoon of July 31 in the Shmeisani neighborhood, a traditional venue for such events. The Jordanian police and intelligence services report no attempts to stage demonstrations at the Embassy or other places of U.S. interest, but we are nevertheless discussing with the authorities additional security contingency planning, and are monitoring the situation closely. Demonstrations were lighter Friday, July 28 than the previous week, possibly because the GOJ refused to grant permits.

In Most Respects, Business as Usual

¶5. (SBU) Most of our contacts relate their deep unhappiness with events in Lebanon, but continue relationships with us as usual. One econ contact declined to meet with emboffs because of Qana, but we were able to get our business done with his superior, who received us as usual.

¶6. (SBU) Jordanians have cancelled some cultural and festive events. Other festivities took place as usual. High school students who passed their national standards tests celebrated last weekend as they do every year with happy, noisy processions of cars all over west Amman.

¶7. (SBU) USAID Amman's Mission Director spoke at a well-attended aid event in Madaba late July 30, (post Qana) and was received normally -- a sign we can continue with judiciously chosen and controlled public events focused on our aid relationship, for now.

Comment

¶8. (C) If the USG's latest diplomatic initiatives are unable to prevent a full resumption of hostilities, we expect deterioration in attitudes here toward the U.S., from an already very low base. This would put further pressure on King Abdullah but he shows no sign of wavering in his support for the U.S. approach.

Visit Amman's Classified Web Site at
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/nea/amman/>
Hale